

**MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE
REVISED MOTION TO ITEM # 6**

MAY 20, 2008

~~The Probation Department has approximately 1100 minors who have been placed in group homes on a Suitable Placement order by the Juvenile Court. As of April 18, 2008, there are 437 minors currently AWOL from their group home placements. These youth are included in the Probation Department's overall AWOL figures for all juveniles with bench warrants totaling 3609.~~

Juvenile probationers placed in group homes by the Probation Department AWOL from those placements at an unacceptable rate. Not only are AWOL minors a risk to public safety, but they also pose a safety risk to themselves. This is most recently illustrated by the minor who was found dead on May 8, 2008 while AWOL from a suitable placement order for ten days.

~~The Probation Department does not have a comprehensive model that allows them to track, identify and locate minors on a consistent and timely basis. For those youth who are placed in group homes on a suitable placement order, the Suitable Placement Division no longer has dedicated staff to perform consistent due diligence in locating AWOL minors nor does the Department have the systems capability of tracking the length of time youth have been AWOL.~~

-M-O-R-E-

MOTION

MOLINA	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
BURKE	_____

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Although the Probation Department has the systems capability to track all minors under its custody it does not have a dedicated unit to perform consistent due diligence to locate those minors who have AWOL'd from group homes and/or are on bench warrant status in the community. As a result, some minors have been AWOL from their placements for great lengths of time.

It is critical that the Probation Department focus attention on this population of youth. Not only does locating these youth ensure that they receive the vital mental health, health, education and supportive services they need to successfully reintegrate into our communities, but it also reduces the risk to our communities.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the CEO to work in conjunction with the Director of the Probation Department to accomplish the following:

1. Conduct a comprehensive analysis of existing AWOL policies and procedures, including but not limited to factors such as the status of all AWOL minors and a determination of the length of time each minor has been AWOL; and
2. Work with DCFS to perform a thorough review of the existing DCFS Runaway Adolescent Program's (RAP) policies and procedures in order to identify best practices which can be implemented at the Probation Department in order to enhance its current model for dealing with AWOL minors; and

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I, FURTHER MOVE THAT THIS BOARD, direct the CEO to work in concert with County Counsel, DCFS, The Department of Coroner and ICAN to incorporate and/or replicate DCFS' current child death notification process (es) to the BOS in all instances involving the death of any minors under the care of supervision of the Probation Department;

FINALLY, I MOVE THAT THIS BOARD, direct the CEO and the Director of Probation to report back with their findings, and recommendations for improved policies and procedures at the Probation Department within 60 days.

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